



# 8th Army *Safety* Gram

## ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



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## Safety and Yard Work

Yard work! For the average person these two words can either mean dread or enjoyment. Like it or not, it is a necessary evil for most of us. Regardless, safety needs to be a major part of your activities.

### *As you plan your yard work, remember these simple points:*

- ◆ Always wear the recommended protective gear for the equipment being used. Consult the manufacturer's operating manual. Safety glasses, hearing protection, long pants and safety shoes should be standard protective equipment when using a lawn mower or weed-eater.
- ◆ Always check the oil and fuel levels in gasoline-powered equipment. Never add fuel to hot equipment. Gasoline could be ignited by the hot surface of an exhaust pipe or engine. Always add fuel to equipment in a well-ventilated area and properly store the fuel away from direct sunlight or other heat sources.
- ◆ Disconnect the spark plug to gasoline-powered equipment before working on, cleaning or adjusting the equipment.
- ◆ Always inspect the area before starting work. It should be clear of branches, stones, glass or other debris that could be thrown from the mower.
- ◆ Never mow the lawn when it is wet. There is danger of slipping and falling in the path of a moving mower, as well as the hazard of shock from an electric mower.
- ◆ Make sure people are not in the area being mowed, so they cannot be struck by flying objects or step into the path of the mower.
- ◆ Keep a firm grip on the lawn mower handle with both hands at all times. Never over-reach while operating a mower; it's important to keep your balance at all times.
- ◆ Be especially careful when mowing on sloping ground where you have less control. Mow across the fall of the slope, never up and down.
- ◆ Never operate a lawn mower if you are barefoot or while wearing sandals. Always wear safety-toed shoes; they could save your foot if it slips under the cutting blade.
- ◆ It's much safer to cut the grass while walking forward, keeping the mower ahead of you, rather than pulling it backward toward you.
- ◆ As a precaution, keep all bystanders at a safe distance and never allow children to operate a mower. Do not give anyone a ride if you are using a riding mower.
- ◆ Never remove clippings from the underside of your mower with your hands. Use a long handled scraper.
- ◆ Use a cutting line of the correct diameter for the weed-eating equipment. The wrong size line can cause the machine to malfunction and might result in eye injuries or other injuries.
- ◆ Never remove the safety line guard on the weed-eater. It is there to protect you.
- ◆ Keep pesticides locked up and out of reach of children and pets. Know the chemicals you are using and protect yourself with the proper PPE. Consult your local garden centre for information about organic matter you can use. The chemicals you use should come with a Material Safety Data Sheet which will tell you what you need to do to protect yourself.



***Regardless of your view of yard work, if you make safety a part of your experience. You can sit back, sip your lemonade and enjoy the results of your hard work.***